

## Summary: Weekly Report | February 9, 2018

### Region 2

**Hurricane Irma/Maria:** Electric Power Sector Recovery Meeting: On February 6, 2018, Region 2 participated in a meeting of the Energy Sector Working Group in Puerto Rico, a body comprised of representatives from various federal agencies, Puerto Rico government entities, and the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico. The group's focus is planning the recovery of the electric power sector, which was heavily damaged by the hurricanes. There will be regular meetings of the Working Group, going forward. At the meeting, Noel Zamot, the Revitalization Coordinator for the Oversight Board, provided a vision for Puerto Rico's energy future, which he said would be provided for in the revised fiscal plan to be submitted by PREPA on February 12. A revised Integrated Resource Plan is being prepared consistent with this vision, but Zamot said that it is the PREPA fiscal plan that will be the key document.

Zamot said that the best estimate of the overall cost of rebuilding Puerto Rico's energy system is around \$12 billion. Work is being done now to develop ways to incentivize private investment in the system. He also said that he believes there could be 600-700 MW of new renewables on the island in the next five or six years, but that in order to bring such renewable energy online, the Commonwealth will need to divest of a lot of excess capacity in conventional power sources. Zamot also said that Puerto Rico could eventually be a net energy exporter, including to the USVI.

**Feb. 26 - March 1:** RA Pete Lopez will travel to PR and the USVI. The trip will focus on transitioning from hurricane response to recovery. The meetings with key local leaders, agencies and stakeholders will aid Region 2 in developing a Strategic Recovery Plan which will heavily focus on opportunities for tackling pre-existing environmental challenges. On 3/1 the RA will give the keynote address at the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) Conference.

### Region 6

#### **Bird Creek, Osage County, Oklahoma**

EPA received a Summons from Warren American that the Agency had been served the complaint on February 2, 2018. Jireh and Novy intend to serve complaints as well. Meanwhile, the companies continue to have technical discussions with EPA and conduct tests and surveys to better understand how nearby wells are impacting Bird Creek.

#### **San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy Site, Albuquerque, NM**

Region 6 will conduct government-to-government consultation with the Navajo Nation in Albuquerque on February 14, 2018 regarding the possible addition of the San Mateo Basin site to the National Priorities List. Groundwater in the Basin has been contaminated by discharges from 26, now inactive, uranium mines. Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and the Navajo Nation EPA Executive Director Dr. Donald Benn are expected to attend.

February 13 RA Idsal meets with members of the House and Senate, Washington, D.C.

February 14 RA Idsal tours Santa Clara Pueblo, NM

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### Region 8

#### **February 13, 2018 Public Meeting to Present Draft Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment and Human Health Risk Assessment Findings for the Smurfit Stone Mill Superfund Site in Frenchtown (Missoula), Montana**

EPA will present its preliminary human health and ecological risk assessment findings for the Smurfit-Stone Mill Superfund site to the Frenchtown, Montana community. Missoula County, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) are likely to express disappointment that the preliminary results for human and ecological risk assessments show no unacceptable risk at the site.

### Region 9

**FIFRA SETTLEMENT:** we finalized the largest worker-protection-standard settlement nationwide with Syngenta. In one incident, 10 farmworkers in Kauai were sent to the hospital after entering a field treated with Chlorpyrifos. The settlement features a \$400,000 SEP, in which Syngenta will provide worker-protection-standard training for small growers in Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands in Mandarin, Korean, Tagalog and Ilocano, and pay an additional \$150,000. The case was referred to us by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

**LEAN:** we held a very productive Kaizen event with Arizona DEQ partners as we expand the existing Performance Partnership Grant to include all CAA, CWA, SDWA and RCRA grants.

**TRIBES:** we hosted a quarterly 3-day meeting of Region 9 tribes, drawing participation of over 150 tribal colleagues from around the Region.

**NAVAJO NATION:** next week, Region 8 and 9 senior managers will convene a tribal consultation re Bonita Peak Mining District Site (CO), followed by Region 9 discussions with the tribe regarding a recently awarded EPA \$85 mil. contract for uranium mine remediation, then Regions 6 and 9 will consult with Navajo President Begay regarding the San Mateo Creek Basin listing.

### Region 10

**Region 10 Administrator to Attend Alaska Forum on the Environment and Meet with Range of Stakeholders:** During the week of February 12, Regional Administrator Chris Hladick will be introduced at the annual Alaska Forum on the Environment conference in Anchorage. RA Hladick will attend a plenary session and two sessions focused on successes in the Indian General Assistance Program. In addition, while in Anchorage, the RA will meet with a wide range of Alaska stakeholders and have two press interviews. A number of other Region 10 staff will also participate in the conference as presenters or session moderators.

**Region 10 Administrator to Meet with Stakeholders and State Partners in Olympia, WA:** On February 15, Region 10's Administrator, Chris Hladick will visit the Washington capital to meet with key stakeholders and partners including Governor Jay Inslee and key policy staff, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Directors of the Departments of Ecology and Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission. Chris will also meet with staff in Region 10's Washington Operations Office.

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### Office of Administration and Resources Management

#### Las Vegas Human Resources Shared Service Center Consolidation

Beginning in June 2018, work performed at EPA's human resources shared service center in Las Vegas, Nevada leased space will transition to EPA's owned locations in Research Triangle Park, NC and Cincinnati, OH. This consolidation will improve the utilization of EPA's real property portfolio and will positively impact staff coordination and service delivery. Staff affected by this consolidation will be given the option to relocate to RTP or Cincinnati at the same job series and grade level, separate from the agency, or find other federal employment. Other options for the effected employees are also being considered by management. The space will be released by September 30, 2018.

#### OARM Kaizen Event to Improve Procurement Quality and Efficiency

The week of February 5<sup>th</sup>, OARM's Office of Acquisition Management conducted its first Kaizen event to identify ways to improve the quality and efficiency of EPA's procurement requests in support of the Agency's lean management system. The goal of the event is to develop processes that will decrease deficiencies in procurement request packages by 75%, reducing the need to rework packages and reducing the time it takes to award contracts.

### Office of Air and Radiation

**Repeal of the Clean Power Plan (CPP):** Registration for the upcoming listening sessions is open on EPA's website. (As a reminder, the listening sessions are: February 21 in Kansas City, Missouri; February 28 in San Francisco; and March 27 in Gillette, Wyoming. The comment period has been reopened until April 26).

**SIP Lean Event:** Next week staff from the Regions, OGC, and OAR will be meeting here in DC to define an improved process for EPA action on SIPs (one of the 10 priority areas to which lean tools are being applied). Several states will also participate in the event.

### Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

**Fees Rule.** On February 8<sup>th</sup>, EPA announced that it is proposing a rule to require certain fees to defray 25% of the costs of administering certain sections of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The rule, if finalized, will secure sustainable funding to defray costs of implementation of new responsibilities under the amended law and to review chemicals for safety with the highest scientific standards. Under the proposed rule, affected businesses would begin incurring fees on October 1, 2018. The fees rule is the final of four framework rules under amended TSCA.

**TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory Update.** One of the requirements under the Lautenberg Act was for EPA to update the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory by designating every substance on it either "active" or "inactive" in U.S. commerce. Currently there are about 85,000 chemicals on the Inventory. Manufacturers and processors have been reporting whether they've manufactured, imported or processed the chemicals on the inventory for nonexempt commercial purposes in the 10-year period ending on June 21, 2016. The reporting period for manufacturers (including importers) closed on February 7, 2018. As of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the number of unique reported chemicals was 28,266. The reporting period for processors will end on October 5, 2018.

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### Office of the Chief Financial Officer

- The CR legislation provides \$89.3 billion in emergency supplemental funding for hurricane disasters of which the agency is provided \$63.2 million:
  - \$6.2 million for the Superfund program to help repair damage sustained to remedies at Superfund sites, including removal of damaged tanks and containers and repair of groundwater monitoring wells, aeration towers and fencing.
  - \$7.0 million for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program to repair damage to storage tanks to prevent spills and contaminants from leaking into the environment.
  - \$50 million for debris and technical assistance to inspect and clean up hazardous waste facilities and to provide additional support for solid waste management activities.
  - Also provides Puerto Rico access to previously appropriated State Revolving Fund money to help rebuild the island's clean water and drinking water systems.
- OMB clearance has been received for the *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan*, the *FY 2019 Annual Performance Plan* and the *FY 2017 Annual Performance Report*, which are included in EPA's *FY 2019 Congressional Justification*, for issuance on February 12. OCFO will issue an advance copy of the *Strategic Plan* to senior leaders on February 9.
- The FY2019 President's Budget will be transmitted to Congress on Monday, February 12. OCFO is incorporating the recent funding changes from OMB to the budget documents and working with OMB for clearance of all documents. OCFO is scheduled to meet with both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff on the details of the FY2019 President's Budget this Friday as part of the traditional rollout activities.
- The inaugural E-Enterprise Bulletin (newsletter) is slated for release by February 16, 2018. The primary audience for the Bulletin are *EPA, states and tribes*. The EPA Strategic Plan, which includes an objective focused on shared governance/cooperative federalism, will be highlighted. This first Bulletin also includes a statement by the EELC co-chair, Henry Darwin, and the state and tribal co-chairs, regarding the value of E-Enterprise.

### Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

- **February 14** – House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on NSR program entitled, "New Source Review Permitting Challenges for Manufacturing and Infrastructure"
- **February 12** - OW & OLEM bipartisan budget briefing for House Transportation and Infrastructure, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee staff.
- **February 25** - EPA and Administrator Pruitt will host the Western Governors' Association for a breakfast.

### Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

**FY 2017 Enforcement Results:** On February 8, 2018 EPA announced its Fiscal Year 2017 annual enforcement and compliance results, highlighting site remediation and civil and criminal enforcement results ([ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-annual-results-fiscal-year-2017"](https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-annual-results-fiscal-year-2017) ]).

### Office of Policy

#### *Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:*

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Tracking High Priority Rulemakings: OP is working with Henry Darwin to begin tracking the progress of high priority rulemakings to ensure EPA's regulatory priorities are being accomplished in a timely manner. As part of the spring 2018 Regulatory Agenda, each office is currently reviewing rulemaking schedules in ADP Tracker. Offices should carefully review the planned schedules for these high priority rules and make any necessary updates before February 13. These schedules will be used as the target dates for the monthly tracking report. After February 13, the Office of Policy will confirm the list of rules to be tracked, and program offices will have one week to make final revisions to those schedules.

### Office of Research and Development

#### **ORD Supports Region 9 on Asbestos Removal Related to Wildfires**

Recent wildfires in northern California damaged many buildings, some of which have asbestos containing material (ACM). One large facility (approximately 20,000 square feet) has debris throughout (e.g., steel, roofing materials, and framing) that is piled up to 10 feet high. The debris piles make ACM removal dangerous. ORD is providing technical support to Region 9 on how to handle ACM from debris piles and the structures. In areas of the building that are structurally sound, undamaged ACM can be abated using current regulations and the volume of debris that must go to an asbestos landfill can be reduced, thereby reducing costs. All debris piles materials will go to the asbestos landfill.

#### **Evaluating decontamination methods for benzene-contaminated drinking water following wildfires**

Last week Region 9 contacted ORD asking for technical assistance associated with the recent California wildfires. Following the fires, residents of Santa Rosa's Fountaingrove neighborhood complained of water taste and odor issues. The Santa Rosa Water Department discovered elevated levels of benzene in the drinking water, although the source was unknown. ORD provided data from our studies at the Water Security Test Bed, demonstrating that flushing with clean water was effective at removing benzene from cement-mortar lined pipe and copper plumbing. ORD notified R9 that flushing could be a decontamination strategy, but may take longer to clear the PVC water pipes of detectable benzene.

#### **ORD ending all operations in Las Vegas**

On February 6 we announced that all ORD operations in Las Vegas, Nevada will be ending as of September 30, 2018. Previously, the decision was made to end laboratory operations in Las Vegas by the end of this fiscal year but this new decision impacts all ORD staff in Las Vegas, both non-laboratory and laboratory personnel. The decision was made as a way of reducing the amount of ORD's federally leased space and reducing operational costs.

### Office of Water

**LCR Consultation Meetings:** OW continues to hold follow up Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Federalism and Tribal consultation meetings, meeting recently with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the American Public Works Association Government Affairs Committee, and the United South and Eastern Tribes. Additional Federalism consultation meetings will be held with the American Water Works Association, the National Rural Water Association, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. Federalism consultation is scheduled to close on March 8 while Tribal consultation will continue until March 16.